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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,976	12/06/2001	Gregory Jay Geilow	ROC9-2001-0250-US1	5610

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10/03/2002

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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/010,976

Applicant(s)
Gregory et al.

Examiner
Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit
2833



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Dec 6, 2001 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “actuating assembly displacing the moving member” (claim 1), “a support material”, “electrical conductors” and “positions” (in claim 2), the “base member”, “fasteners” and “holding member” (in claim 7), the guide having “two parts” (claim 6), the engaging member ¹¹ having a “surface” forcing the card, and the actual connecting and disconnecting of the device must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. **No new matter should be entered.**

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 26.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 16, change “said” to --an--. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 2, it is unclear to the examiner exactly what is the "support material disposed on the card support...surrounding a region of the card".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

7. Claims 1, 2 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Good et

al. Good et al. disclose a connecting and disconnecting device for connecting a connector by

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mating to an electronic card 52, the device comprising a card support 116 with locating pins 40, a frame 54, a movable member 50 carrying a spring 106 and an engaging member 94, said movable member further comprising a clamp 88 and an actuation assembly 78,74,72.

Regarding claim 2, (as best understood) the card support of Good et al. comprises conductors 90.

Regarding claim 7, Good et al. disclose the clamp member having a base member 87 and a holding member 96.

Regarding claim 8, Good et al. disclose the engaging member having a surface (at 94) for engagement with a surface of the card 52 and forcing the card toward the support 116.

Regarding claim 9, the spring of Good et al. exerts a force through the engaging member 94 in excess of the force exerted on the connector.

8. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al. Wang et al. disclose a connecting and disconnecting device 10 for connecting a connector by mating to an electronic card, the device comprising a card support 100 with locating pins 94,96, a frame 82, a movable member 16 carrying a spring 56 and an engaging member 58, said movable member further comprising a clamp 18 and an actuation assembly 82,88.

Regarding claim 2,(as best understood) the card support of Wang et al. comprises conductors 114.

Regarding claim 3, the device of Wang et al. has a toggle (at 80, in fig. 4).

Regarding claim 4, the device of Wang et al. has a handle 88.

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Regarding claim 7, Wang et al. disclose the clamp member having a base member (head of screw 18, not shown) and a holding member (screw threads, not shown).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goode et al. in view of Kaiser et al. Goode et al. do not disclose the actuator comprising a toggle.

However, Kaiser et al disclose an actuator having an arm that acts as a toggle (see col. 5, lines 18-20). Therefore , it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connecting/disconnecting device of Good et al by having the actuator further comprise a toggle assembly to allow the forces to be exerted on the arm as taught by Kaiser et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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12. Claims 10-17 are allowed.

13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
regarding claim 5, patentability resides, at least in part, with the frame comprising a guide engaged with the movable member to confine movement toward and away from the card support;
regarding claims 10 and 13, patentability resides, at least in part, in the movable member being confined for movement "only" toward and away from the card support, an electronic connector retained in a clamp and disposing the card and a mating connector aligned with another connector within the clamp, in combination with the other limitations of the claim.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Todd and Donovan, Jr. were cited as a similar connectors.


15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is (703) 305-0032.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

Brigitte R. Hammond

September 30, 2002


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